

City of Binghamton, New York
Draft Scoping Document
For a Draft Generic Environmental Impact Statement
For the City of Binghamton Comprehensive Plan and Form Based Code

This document identifies the issues to be addressed in the Draft Generic Environmental Impact Statement (DGEIS) for the Draft City of Binghamton Comprehensive Plan Update, *Blueprint Binghamton*, and Form Based Code for the Main Street/Court Street corridor, hereinafter referred to as Update to the City of Binghamton Comprehensive Plan. This Draft Scoping Document contains the items described in 6 NYCRR Part 617.8 (f) (1) through (5).

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| Name of Action: | Anticipated Adoption of the City of Binghamton Update to the Comprehensive Plan (<i>Blueprint Binghamton</i>) (Draft) |
| Location: | City of Binghamton, New York |
| Lead Agency Contact: | Teri Rennia Council Member 3rd District Binghamton City Hall 38 Hawley Street Binghamton, NY 13901 |
| Classification of Action: | Type 1 (see NYCRR 617.4(b)(1)): “the adoption of a municipality’s land use plan” |
| Scoping Meeting: | January 22, 2014 7pm-9pm |
| Written Scoping Comments: | Written public comments on the draft scoping document will be accepted by the Lead Agency until February 5, 2014. |

Description of Proposed Action:

Pursuant to the New York State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA), the proposed action is the anticipated adoption (June 2014) of an Update to the City of Binghamton Comprehensive Plan. The most recent Comprehensive Plan was adopted in 2003, and a comprehensive revision of the Zoning Code was adopted in 2006. Under the proposed action, the City of Binghamton is updating its Comprehensive Plan, titled *Blueprint Binghamton*. The Comprehensive Plan is a blueprint for the City's future that will provide specific goals and objectives for the growth and development of the City. The action includes review of existing conditions to identify needs and opportunities and implementation strategies for the City. The following elements are being considered for the plan update: land use and zoning, housing, environment and open space, infrastructure, transportation systems, community health and safety, floodplain management, economic development, and historic preservation. The second component of the proposed action is to conduct a thorough review of the zoning ordinance as it pertains to the Main Street/Court Street Corridor and craft a Form Based Code to guide investment and redevelopment along that corridor. The Form Based Code will create a more predictable process and outcome for the City and future developers and will require an amendment to the existing zoning ordinance.

As stated in the SEQR regulations, 6 NYCRR 617.10(a), a Generic EIS may be used to assess the environmental impacts of "an entire program or plan having area wide application." In addition, this section says that "Generic EISs may be broader and more general than site or project specific EISs." The broad focus of a GEIS aids in the identification and analysis of area-wide and cumulative effects of the action. As such, the DGEIS will address the area-wide impacts potentially resulting from the Plan's recommendations, and not localized, site-specific impacts.

Binghamton City Council declared its intent to act as Lead Agency, for purposes of SEQR, on December 6, 2013. The SEQR Positive Declaration and Notice of Intent to prepare a DGEIS were also accepted on December 6, 2013.

The DGEIS will contain the elements required in 617.9(b) and the following information:

COVER SHEET identifying:

- (1) The report as a Draft GEIS
- (2) The proposed action and its location
- (3) The name, address and telephone number of the Lead Agency and contact person
- (4) The name, address and telephone number of the preparer of the DGEIS; the date of the DGEIS submission and acceptance
- (5) Public hearing date and DGEIS comment period
- (6) Website where DGEIS and FGEIS will be posted, as required under state law.

Following the cover sheet, a list (name, address and telephone numbers) of all consultants involved in the project and a list of all interested parties will be provided.

TABLE OF CONTENTS, indicating the chapters of the DGEIS and page numbers, as well as lists of exhibits, tables and appendices (if any).

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 Introduction
- 1.2 Description of the Proposed Action
- 1.3 Alternatives
- 1.4 Significant Impacts and Mitigation Measures
- 1.5 Interested/Involved Agencies
- 1.6 Required Reviews and Approvals

2.0 PROPOSED ACTION: COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE ADOPTION

- 2.1 Project Location
- 2.2 Project History
- 2.2 Project Purpose and Need
- 2.3 Goals of the Plan
- 2.4 Recommendations
- 2.5 Involved Agencies
- 2.6 Required Reviews and Approvals

3.0 ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING, IMPACTS AND MITIGATION

3.1 Economic Development

This section of the DGEIS will address existing conditions, potential impacts and mitigation measures for topics including: expansion of local businesses and jobs; redevelopment within Brownfield Opportunity Areas (BOAs); industrial preservation areas and gateway improvements.

- 3.1.1 Existing Conditions
- 3.1.2 Potential Impacts
- 3.1.3 Mitigation Measures

3.2 Housing

This section of the DGEIS will address existing conditions, potential impacts and mitigation measures for topics including: new residential zones (lower densities in flood-prone areas, mixed use); sites for new housing development; areas for neighborhood stabilization and green building and energy efficiency.

- 3.2.1 Existing Conditions
- 3.2.2 Potential Impacts
- 3.2.3 Mitigation Measures

3.3 Transportation

This section of the DGEIS will address existing conditions, potential impacts and mitigation measures for topics including: traffic safety and excessive/overbuilt roadways (removal of excessive infrastructure to reduce costs); alternative modes of transportation; green infrastructure for transportation projects and truck routes.

- 3.3.1 Existing Conditions
- 3.3.2 Potential Impacts
- 3.3.3 Mitigation Measures

3.4 Infrastructure and Water Resources

This section of the DGEIS will address existing conditions, potential impacts and mitigation measures for topics including: water resources, flood mitigation, stormwater management and water quality, water and energy conservation.

3.4.1 Existing Conditions

3.4.2 Potential Impacts

3.4.3 Mitigation Measures

3.5 Environment, Open Space and Recreation

This section of the DGEIS will address existing conditions, potential impacts and mitigation measures for topics including: land resources (topography, soils, habitat, waste reductions/management and sustainable goals); air quality and noise (tree canopy) and parks and recreation.

3.5.1 Existing Conditions

3.5.2 Potential Impacts

3.5.3 Mitigation Measures

3.6 Land Use and Zoning

This section of the DGEIS will address existing conditions, potential impacts and mitigation measures for topics including: future land use, new zoning classifications, recommended changes to zoning code to support future land use, and proposed form based code for the Main Street/Court Street corridor.

3.6.1 Existing Conditions

3.6.2 Potential Impacts

3.6.3 Mitigation Measures

3.7 Historic, Cultural and Visual Resources

This section of the DGEIS will address existing conditions, potential impacts and mitigation measures for topics including: historic preservation of commercial buildings and historic preservation of residential areas.

3.7.1 Existing Conditions

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